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FROM JAMES TO RICHARD

The Nixon Line

by

Raymond Martin Bell
Washington & Jefferson College

Washington, Pennsylvania

1957

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The Nixons have been in America for over two hundred years. The first Nixon was James Nixon who was living in Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware in 1752 when his older son was born. His farm was about 5 miles north of Wilmington and 15 west of Philadelphia. He probably settled in Delaware about 1740 and was likely one of many who went from Ireland to Delaware and Pennsylvania in that period. The main source of information about James Nixon is his will, which was probated in New Castle County less than ten weeks after the battle of Lexington in 1775.

In his will James Nixon gave each of his two sons a 100 acre farm. He owned considerable livestock. His wife's name was Mary. He gave specific bequests totalling £235. He mentioned his negroes Ned and Nance. He had four daughters, three of whom were married when he wrote his will. He was likely about 60 when he died. He was probably a Presbyterian and was interested in education, for in his will he speaks of money in the hands of Rev. (Robert) Smith, a Presbyterian minister, who ran an academy at Pequea. His younger son, James Jr., stayed in Delaware; the older, George, moved west to Pennsylvania and Ohio.

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George Nixon I, the older son of James, was born in Brandywine Hundred in 1752, according to his pension application. The first record of him is his name in his father's will. From his father he received 106 acres and £70. On August 17-1775, a few months after his father's death, he was married to Sarah Seeds, member of an old Delaware family, in Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church, Wilmington. The Revolution was at hand and George Nixon served three different times: an ensign with Washington at Trenton and Princeton, a private in the battle of Brandywine near his home, a lieutenant as a spy against the British when they were occupying Philadelphia.

George Nixon said in his pension application (1833) that his company "joined the Army of Washington, recrossed the (Delaware) River with him and were stationed with him at said Trenton on the memorable 2d of January 1777 when the British marched to attack the Americans. This deponent is old and frail but well recollects the whole scene then displayed. After renewing the fires about midnight the American troops were silently withdrawn and after gaining a position in the enemy's rear were marched towards Princeton, near which place early next morning they met the rear of the British troops where a battle was fought and the latter defeated, in which this deponent bore his share to the best of his skill and understanding as Ensign in said Company and has now in his possession the very Sword and Spontoon (half-pike) by him carried on that occasion".

The westward fever caused George Nixon to move with others from Delaware to the outskirts of Washington, Pennsylvania, where he bought a 224 acre farm in 1803 for $1600. Washington was then a frontier town of 800, only 30 miles from the border of Ohio, which was just becoming a state. Just over the hill from the Nixon farm the National Pike was laid out a few years later. One of the few accounts of George Nixon in Pennsylvania is in 1826, when he and his sons went into court to protest a new road, which was to be laid out through their farm. The court honored the protest and the road went another way.

Rec'd Jan 22-1977

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George Nixon said in his pension application (1833) that his company "joined the Army of Washington, recrossed the (Delaware) River with him and were stationed with him at said Trenton on the memorable 26 of January 1777 when the British marched to attack the Americans. This deponent is old and frail but well recollects the whole scene then displayed. After renewing the fires about midnight the American troops were silently withdrawn and after gaining a position in the enemy's rear were marched towards Princeton, near which place early next morning they met the rear of the British troops where a battle was fought and the latter defeated, in which this deponent bore his share to the best of his skill and understanding as Ensign in said Company and has now in his possession the very Sword and Spontoon (half-pike) by him carried on that occasion".

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Ohio beckoned and in 1830, at the age of 78, George Nixon [illegible] and two of his sons, Seeds and Francis, moved west to Clinton County, Ohio. Here George bought a farm which he sold ten years later. In 1833 he was living in Clark Township. The last record of George Nixon I is on March 11-1842, when at 90 he appeared before the Mayor of Cincinnati to prove that he was a Revolutionary soldier and to receive $25 as the six months payment for the period ending March 4-1842. This is the last payment he received; he was apparently dead six months later. No record of his death or of his grave has been found.

George Nixon II, the oldest son of George I, was born in Brandywine Hundred in 1784, according to the 1860 census record. As a young man of 19 he moved with his father from Delaware to Pennsylvania. At 22 he married Hannah Wilson, the 16-year old daughter of William Wilson, blacksmith and wagon-maker, of Washington. The Wilsons had come from Delaware and may have known the Nixons there.

George and Hannah Nixon lived on a part of the Nixon farm for over twenty years. They were members of the First Methodist Church for most of this period. In the old church records George Nixon is listed as a member of the Country Class which met at 12 o'clock after church on Sundays. Church services were held at 10 first in the log church, after 1816 in the brick church. Hannah was a member of one of the women's classes which met in town Friday afternoons at 3. The Nixons were Methodists for four generations. Hannah died about 1827 and George remarried and moved in 1833 to Smith Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania. In 1844 he moved to Vinton County, Ohio. In 1860 he was living in Richland Township. He probably died about 1865.

George Nixon III, the third son of George II, was born at Washington, Pennsylvania in 1821, according to his widow's pension record. He was born in a log house on his grandfather's farm. He was a farmer as were all the Nixons before him. On January 10-1843 he married Margaret Ann Trimmer, 17-year old daughter of Anthony Trimmer, a farmer of Smith Township. The Trimmers had originally lived in New Jersey. In 1853 George III moved to Ohio, as his grandfather and father had done before him. He settled in Elk Township, Vinton County, where he was a farmer. On November 9-1861 he enlisted in the Union Army. The records at Washington describe him as:

age 40, farmer, 5½ feet, brown eyes, light complexion and hair.

Nixon's regiment arrived at Gettysburg at 2 p.m. July 1-1863 and went into position near what is now the National Cemetery. On July 2 there was sharpshooting and on July 3 there was battery fire. George Nixon was fatally wounded and died a few days later. His grave is close to the spot where Lincoln stood when he gave his famous Gettysburg Address, dedicating the cemetery in which Nixon lies. A simple stone reads: GEORGE NIXON CO. B. REGT. 73.
His widow died 20 months later, leaving eight orphan children.

Samuel Brady Nixon, the second son of George III, was born October 9-1847 near Midway, Washington County, Pennsylvania, about 15 miles west of Pittsburgh. At the age of 6 he moved with his parents to Elk Township, Vinton County, Ohio. He was a boy of 14 when his father marched away to war. On April 10-1873 he married Sarah Ann Wadsworth, 21-year old daughter of Thomas Wadsworth, a neighbor and storekeeper. The Wadsworths had gone from Maryland to Ohio. Samuel Brady Nixon was a farmer, but in addition he found

time to teach school and to carry mail. His wife's health was not good and attempts to find a better climate did not help. She died in 1886, leaving five children. Samuel Brady Nixon remarried and lived in Vinton County until his death April 28-1914. His grave is in Ebenezer Methodist Cemetery, a country graveyard in northern Vinton County.

Francis Anthony Nixon, the second son of Samuel Brady Nixon, was born December 3-1878 in Elk Township, Vinton County. When he was seven his mother died and Francis (Frank) went to the farm of his uncle, Lyle Nixon. He attended Ebenezer School and Ebenezer Methodist Church. After a boyhood on an Ohio farm he went to Columbus in 1901 where he was a street car operator for several years. In 1907 he went to Whittier, California and on June 25-1908 he married Hannah Milhous, daughter of Franklin Milhous. The Milhous family was a Quaker family which had moved west from Pennsylvania to Ohio to Indiana. In 1897 Franklin Milhous and his family moved from Jennings County, Indiana to Whittier, California. Frank Nixon operated a ranch, worked as a carpenter and in 1922 opened a store in East Whittier, which he operated until he retired. He lived to see his son, Richard, become Vice-President and win the nomination for a second term. Francis (Frank) Anthony Nixon died September 4-1956 at La Habra, California and is buried in nearby Rose Hills Memorial Park.

Richard Milhous Nixon, the second son of Frank and Hannah Milhous Nixon, was born at Yorba Linda, California January 9-1913. On June 21-1940 he married Patricia Thelma Ryan. He was graduated from Whittier College in 1934; from Duke University Law School in 1937. In 1946 he was elected to the United States Congress; in 1950 to the Senate; in 1952 he was elected and in 1956 re-elected Vice-President of the United States.

Common to each of the first six generations of the Nixon family is the fact that they were farmers and land owners. Each answered the call of the west and moved toward the setting sun. Members of the Nixon family have been Presbyterian, Methodist and Quaker in religious affiliation. They have served under Washington, Lincoln and Eisenhower. Clearly this is a typical American family.

James Nixon c1715-1775 Del.

George Nixon I 1752-c1842 Del., Pa., Ohio

George Nixon II 1784-c1865 Del., Pa., Ohio

George Nixon III 1821-1863 Pa., Ohio

Samuel Brady Nixon 1847-1914 Pa., Ohio

Francis Anthony Nixon 1878-1956 Ohio, Calif.

Richard Milhous Nixon - Vice-President of the United States

1 February 1956

NIXON

(From data gathered by: Dr Raymond M Bell, W & J College, Washington, Pa and Dr Ralph H Lane, Teachers College, Washington, D C)

James Nixon Sr b c 1720 prob Ireland, d June 1775 Brandywine Hundred, New Castle Co, Del, m Mary ----

1. Elizabeth Nixon m James Hannah
2. Mary Nixon m John Latta
3. Catharine Nixon m Samuel Donnald
4. Jean Nixon
5. George Nixon b 1752 (see below)
6. James Nixo, Jr b c 1755, d fall of 1807 Brandywine Hd m Martha? ----

   sons:

   a. John Nixon
   b. James Nixon
   c. William Nixon
   d. George Nixon
   e. Samuel Nixon (may have lived in Richhill Twp, Greene Co,,Pa)

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George Nixon Sr b 1752 New Castle Co, Del, d c 1842 Clinton Co,Ohio m Aug 17-1775 Wilmington, Del Sarah Seeds /1803

George Nixon Sr was lieutenant in Revolution; to Washington Co,Pa

1. George Nixon Jr b 1784 (see below)
2. Seeds Nixon b 1792 m Oct 5-1815 Sarah Waller of Canton Twp, Washington Co; in Clinton Co, Ohio 1838
3. Sarah Nixon m June 12-1817 Andrew McGowan of Canonsburg
4. Francis Nixon b 1796 m Aug 26-1817 Ann Kennedy of New Lisbon,O to Clinton Co, O; to Ill 1842, where he died c 1843

   a. George Nixon b 1818 d Mar 19-1822 Wash, Pa
   b. Robert Nixon b 1820 d June 11-1823 Wash, Pa
   c. son b c 1822, d before 1845 leaving probably Sarah Jane & Harrison
   d. Martha Nixon b c 1824
   e. James Nixon b c 1826
   f. Francis Nixon Jr b c 1828
   g. John Nixon b c 1830
   h. Sarah Nixon b c 1832
   i. Ezra Nixon b c 1834

George Nixon Sr m2 Martha ----

- -

George Nixon Jr b 1784 Del m c 1805 Hannah Wilson b 1790 d c 1827 Wash, Pa; George Nixon Jr to Vinton Co, Ohio c 1844 where he d c 1865

1. William Wilson Nixon b Feb 15-1806 d Feb 7-1891 Vinton Co, Ohio m Nov 29-1825 Ann Lingenfelter of Canton Twp, d c 1827
   a. George Nixon b May 31-1829 Pa d Dec 27-1919 Vinton Co, O m 1855 Christina Long b 1834
      i. Harvey Nixon b 1856
      ii. James E Nixon b 1858
      iii. Isaac S Nixon b 1860
      iv. Cinderella Nixon b Jan 17-1863
      v. Sarah A Nixon b 1866
      vi. Levi Nixon b Feb 5-1868
      vii. Mary Elizabeth Nixon b Oct 27-1870
      viii. Robert Nixon b Apr 26-1873
      ix. Jehiel Warren Nixon b June 29-1876

   William Wilson Nixon m2 c1828 Rachel Lenox b 1811 d Jul 28-1887

   b. William Nixon b c 1831
   c. John Nixon b 1832 m Catherine St Clair & Catherine Hainsworth
   d. James Nixon b 1834 m Margaret Martindill
   e. Rachel Ann Nixon b 1837 d Mar 13-1895 m James W Atkinson
   f. Sidney E Nixon b 1842 m Jesse C Speakman
   g. Isaiah Nixon b Feb 9-1843 d Dec 27-1927 Vinton Co, O m Margaret Jolly & Mary Jane Jolly
   h. Mary J Nixon b 1846 d young
   i. Joseph Nixon b 1849 m Elizabeth Darby & Sarah Forsythe
   j. Melissa Nixon b 1850 m John Gardner
   k. Alonzo Nixon b 1853 m Lovina Woltz
   l. Samantha Nixon b 1856 m James Hicks

2. Eleanor Nixon b May 5-1809 d May 2-1891 m July 1827 John Scothorn b Mar 16-1806 d Jan 13-1886 Allegheny Co, Pa
3. Sarah Nixon b c 1812 m ---- Shaw
4. Mary Ann Nixon b c 1814 m James Lawson
5. James Nixon b c 1817
6. George Nixon III b 1821 (see below)
7. Nancy Nixon b 1826 m c 1849 Thomas Sinclair /1847

George Nixon Jr m2 Nov 16-1830 Christine Pence of Canton Twp d c

8. Eliza J Nixon b 1831 m Mar 28-1860 Zachariah Stevens
9. Seeds Nixon b Mar 24-1833 d Jan 17-1918 Vinton Co, Ohio m Dec 21-1853 Temperance Waldren b 1840
10. Susannah Nixon b 1835 m June 6-1851 Asbury Waldren
11. Mark Nixon b c 1837 d 1863 Vinton Co, O
12. Perry Nixon b c 1840

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George Nixon III b 1821 Wash Co, Pa d July 1863 as result of wounds at Gettysburg, Pa - private in Union Army - to Vinton Co 1853 m Jan 10-1843 Margaret Ann Trimmer b 1826 d Mar 18-1865

1. Martha L Nixon b 1844 m John Vansky
2. David Palmer Nixon b 1846 m Rachel H Clark
3. Samuel Brady Nixon b Oct 9-1847 (see below)
4. Margaret Lovina Nixon b 1849 m Wilson Carson
5. Sarah Elizabeth Nixon b Sept 15-1851 m Robert Shields
6. William F Nixon b Feb 2-1854 d young
7. Boston A Nixon b Apr 6-1856 m H C Livingstone
8. Hiram D Nixon b Mar 15-1858 m Clarinda J Leach
9. Elihu A Nixon b Aug 22-1860

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Samuel Brady Nixon b Oct 9-1847 Wash Co, Pa d Aor 28-1914 Vinton Co, O; m Apr 10-1873 Sarah Ann Wadsworth b Oct 15-1852 d Jan 18-1886

1. Irene Chloe Nixon b Jul 12-1874 d Dec 1-1901 m Henry Engle
2. Walter Wadsworth Nixon b Sept 3-1876
3. Francis Anthony Nixon b Dec 3-1878 (see below)
4. Carrie May Nixon b Feb 20-1881 m ---- Skinner
5. Ernest Leland Nixon b Apr 21-1883

Samuel Brady Nixon m2 Lutheria Wyman

6. Hugh Nixon

- -

Francis Anthony Nixon b Dec 3-1878 Vinton Co, O m June 25-1908 Hannah Milhous b Mar 7-1885

1. Harold Samuel Nixon b June 1-1909 d Mar 7-1933
2. Richard Milhous Nixon b Jan 9-1913 (see below)
3. Francis Donald Nixon b Nov 23-1914
4. Arthur Burdg Nixon b May 26-1918 d Aug 1925
5. Edward Calvert Nixon b May 3-1930

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Richard Milhous Nixon b Jan 9-1913 Yorba Linda, Cal m June 21-1940 Patricia Thelma Ryan b Mar 17-1913

1. Patricia Nixon b Feb 21-1946
2. Julie Nixon b Jul 5-1948